

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 043014

44

ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 IO-11

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 INR-07 CIAE-00 PRS-01

/071 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:MJPLATT

APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:MWEISSMAN

EUR/UK:SWORREL

----- 091299

O P 231707Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USCINCSO

SECDEF

JCS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043014

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GT, BH, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH GARRISON STRENGTH IN BELIZE

REFERENCES: (A) GUATEMALA 1334; (B) STATE 042545 (NOTAL)

1. IN RESPONSE TO REF A, DEPARTMENT ASKED UK EMBASSY TO PROVIDE RUN-DOWN ON PLANS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ONE COMPANY OF TROOPS FROM BELIZE (SEE REF B). TEXT OF FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM FCO TO UK EMBASSY GIVEN TO DEPARTMENT ON FEBRUARY 20.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

QUOTE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 043014

YOU CAN ASSURE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF ONE COMPANY FROM BELIZE IS GOING AHEAD. PLAN IS FOR COMPANY OF IRISH RANGERS TO BE WITHDRAWN AS SOON AS THE NEW BATTALION HAS SETTLED IN. THE CHANGE-OVER OF BATTALIONS HAS ONLY JUST BEEN COMPLETED. THERE IS ONLY ONE FRIGATE IN BELIZEAN WATERS.

WHEN THE COMPANY OF ROYAL IRISH RANGERS IS WITHDRAWN OUR FORCES IN BELIZE WILL COMPRISE ONE INFANTRY BATTALION WITH SUPPORTING ELEMENTS, ONE FLIGHT OF HARRIERS,

ONE FLIGHT OF PUMAS, A SMALL AIR DEFENCE UNIT EQUIPPED WITH GUNS AND ONE FRIGATE.

REDUCTION OF FORCES WAS NOT A CONDITION ON EITHER SIDE FOR CONVENING TALKS IN NEW ORLEANS. AS A GESTURE OF OUR GOOD INTENT, AND IN RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT LAUGERUD'S REQUEST TO MR. ROWLANDS, WE TOOK A DECISION TO WITHDRAW ONE COMPANY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE HOPE GUATEMALANS WILL RESPOND TO THIS GESTURE BY REDUCING THEIR FORCES NEAR THE BELIZE BORDER. THIS IS A SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE CONCERN TO THE PEOPLE OF BELIZE AND CREATES A CLIMATE OF MISTRUST AND FEAR WHICH IT IS IN OUR COMMON INTEREST TO IMPROVE. OUR FORCES IN BELIZE ARE PURELY DEFENSIVE AND SIZE AND COMPOSITION IS DETERMINED SOLELY BY THE DIRECT THREAT POSED BY GUATEMALAN FORCES.

WE ARE ANXIOUS TO RETURN TO THE CONFERENCE TABLE JUST AS SOON AS GUATEMALA'S DOMESTIC SITUATION WILL ALLOW.

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE043014
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MJPLATT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760067-0548
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760222/aaaaatjz.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GUATEMALA 1334, 76 STATE 42545
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRITISH GARRISON STRENGTH IN BELIZE
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, GT, BH, UK
To: GUATEMALA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006